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Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 KINGST 00139 101657Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----------101707Z 125176 /44
O 101440Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3672

S E C R E T KINGSTON 0139

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: EFIN, PFOR, JM, US
SUBJECT: JAMAICAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS AND JAMAICA'S ECONOMIC CRISIS

REF: STATE 003195

FOR ASST. SECY SHLAUDEMAN FROM AMBASSADOR

1. FOLLOWING IS SIGNED TEXT OF LETTER FROM MANLEY TO PROMINENT JAMAICAN BUSINESSMAN ABE ISSA. BEGIN TEXT: QTE:
DEAR ABE, THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR TELEGRAM. I WILL GIVE VERY CAREFUL THOUGHT TO THE BUSINESS OF ATTENDING THE INAUGURATION OF CARTER, AND PLEASE BE ASSURED THAT IF IT IS EVENTUALLY DECIDED THAT I SHOULD NOT DO THIS, IT WILL NOT BE FOR WANT OF INTEREST IN YOUR IDEA, OR LACK OF DESIRE FOR FRIENDSHIP WITH AMERICA.

I KNOW YOU WILL BE PLEASED TO HEAR THAT WE HAVE BEEN WORKING VERY HARD THROUGH THE ELECTION AND SINCE TO ESTABLISH THE STRONGEST POSSIBLE TIES WITH THE NEW CARTER ADMINISTRATION. THEY HAVE BEEN MADE FIRMLY AWARE OF MY PERSONAL DESIRE AND THE DESIRE OF THIS GOVERNMENT TO RESTORE THE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE

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UNITED STATES TO THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION. AT THE SAME TIME, WE HAVE, OF COURSE, MADE IT CLEAR THAT OUR COMMITMENTS IN NOW WAY INVOLVE OR IMPLY ANY HOSTILITY TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

I HAVE GREAT HOPE THAT THE NEW ADMINISTRATION WILL BE MORE IMAGINATIVE AND PERCEPTIVE THAN THEIR

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PREDECESSORS.
PEOPLE LIKE YOURSELF COULD MAKE A GREAT CONTRIBUTION IN THIS REGARD BY HELPING TO TO STOP THE NONSENSICAL AND DISHONEST MISINTERPRETATION OF THE POLICIES OF THIS GOVERNMENT WHICH HAS DONE SO MUCH TO DAMAGE OUR RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES. MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE, THE PEOPLE WHO WERE DETERMINED TO PERPETUATE THE LIE ABOUT COMMUNISM ARE THE ONES THAT REALLY DID THE DAMAGE. I AM NOT PRETENDING THAT AMERICA TAKES KINDLY TO THE NEEDS OF THE THIRD WORLD, NOR THAT THEY READILY UNDERSTAND THAT OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH CUBA IS ONLY A PART OF A WIDER RELATIONSHIP THAT EMBRACES MEXICO, VENEZUELA, COSTA RICA, PANAMA, CARICOM, BLACK AFRICA AND THE LIKE. BUT IT DOES NOT HELP WHEN OUR HONEST AND SIMPLE EXPLANATION OF THIS IS UNDERCUT BY JAMAICANS WHO PROMPTLY GIVE THE LIE TO THE TRUTHS THAT I SPEAK. THIS MERELY SERVES TO CONFIRM THE AMERICANS IN SUSPICIONS THAT COME NATURALLY TO THEM.
WE NOW HOPE AND PRAY THAT AMERICA MAY BE ENTERING A SOMEWHAT MORE ENLIGHTENED PHASE AT THE LEVEL OF ITS POLITICAL DIRECTORATE AND EVERYTHING THAT PEOPLE LIKE YOURSELF CAN DO TO ENCOURAGE THT PROCESS WOULD BE BOTH APPRECIATED AND HELPFUL TO THE NATIONAL INTEREST. WARM REGARDS, AS EVER, MICHAEL MANLEY UNQTE. END TEXT.

2. THIS LETTER HAS BEEN CIRCULATED IN HIGHEST U.S. AND JAMAICAN BUSINESS CIRCLES AND MAY HAVE BEEN
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WRITTEN FOR OUR BENEFIT IN SPITE OF SOME UNDIPLOMATIC LANGUAGE.

3. IT CONFIRMS OUR PREVIOUS INFORMATION THAT MANLEY HAS HIGH AND POSSIBLE EXAGGERATED HOPES REGARDING THE NEW ADMINISTRATION.

4. CURRENT INDICATIONS, HOWEVER, ARE THAT IT IS QUESTIONABLE WHETHER THE GOJ WILL BE WILLING TO ACCEDE TO IMF REQUIREMENTS FOR VITALLY NEEDED FINANCING.

5. ANY DEFINITIVE CONSIDERATION OF A HIGHER LEVEL OF U.S. AID FOR JAMAICA SHOULD CERTAINLY AWAIT RESOLUTION OF THIS QUESTION.

6. IT MIGHT BE OF INTEREST THAT I HELD A MEETING ON JAN 6 WITH TWELVE HEADS OF U.S. BUSINESS HERE INCLUDING ALL ALUMINUM COMPANINES AND BANKS TO

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DISCUSS PRESENT CRISIS. THEY WERE VIRTUALLY UNANI-
MOUS IN PREDICTING THE LEAKEST FUURE FOR THIS
GOJ AND IN OPPOSING ANYTHING OTHER THAN NOMINAL
U.S. ASSISTANCE ON GROUNDS IT WOULD ACCOMPLISH
NOTHING.
GERARD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
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TAGS: EFIN, PFOR, JM, US, (MANLEY, MICHAEL M)
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